

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1164

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 33

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: NORTHERN IRELAND TRADE UNIONS LAUNCH PEACE DRIVE

REF: (A) BELFAST 11 (B) BELFAST 8

1. NORTHERN IRELAND COMMITTEE OF THE IRISH CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS (ICTU) HAS LAUNCHED CAMPAIGN FOR PEACE UNDER SLOGAN "A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL". MOVE FOLLOWS DEMONSTRATIONS ORGANIZED LOCALLY IN LURGAN AND NEWRY (REFTELS). ORGANIZERS SEEKING HALF-MILLION SIGNATURES TO PETITION CONTAINING SIX-POINT DECLARATIONS SEEKING: (A) RIGHT TO LIVE FREE FROM VIOLENCE, SECTARIANISM, INTIMIDATION AND DISCRIMINATION, (B) SECURITY OF EMPLOYMENT AND WELL PAID WORK, (C) RIGHT TO ASSOCIATE FREELY AND TO ADVOCATE POLITICAL CHANGE BY PEACEFUL MEANS, (D) GOOD HOUSING ACCOMMODATION, (C) EQUALITY OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY AND (F) ADEQUATE SOCIAL SERVICES. TRADE UNION OFFICIALS WILL MEET AT BELFAST CITY HALL TO OBSERVE TWO-MINUTE SILENCE 1100 A.M. JAN. 27 AND HAVE ASKED PUBLIC OBSERVE SILENCE. CAMPAIGN PLANS INCLUDE MASS RALLY BELFAST AND MEETINGS WITH SECSTATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND, MEMBERS CONSERVATIVE FRONT BENCH AND TUC.

2. ALTHOUGH SOME OFFICIALS OF AMALGAMATED TRANSPORT AND GENERAL UNCLASSIFIED

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WORKERS UNION HAVE EXPRESSED SUPPORT, CAMPAIGN COULD FOUNDER

ON SECTARIAN DIVISION. ULSTER WORKERS COUNCIL STRIKE MAY 1974
HIGHLIGHTED DIVISIONS AND INABILITY ICTU ACHIEVE SOLIDARITY
AMONG TRADE UNION MEMBERS. ICTU MAY BE ACCUSED OF ALLIANCE WITH
OFFICIAL SINN FEIN BECAUSE OF SIMILARITY SOME OBJECTIVES.
MIXED AND SPONTANEOUS DEMONSTRATIONS LURGAN AND NEWRY HOWEVER
IN WAKE SECTARIAN MASSACRES HAVE ENCOURAGED TRADE UNION LEADERS
TO HOPE THAT, THIS TIME, IT COULD BE DIFFERENT.
SPICER

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